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## Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable KAY R. HAGAN, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we invoke Your divine presence among us. Draw our Senators nearer to You and to one another as You give them the gift of Your peace that is beyond all human understanding. Lord, give them also courage, fortitude, and stability that will keep them firm and steadfast in the face of difficulties. May they serve with fidelity the cause of our Nation and of our common humanity. Help them to build alliances with others who seek to bring sense and system to our disordered world. We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KAY R. HAGAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, February 4, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KAY R. HAGAN, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. HAGAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, there will be 20 minutes for debate prior to a vote on confirmation of the nomination of Patricia Smith to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

Upon disposition of that nomination, there will be 2 hours for debate prior to a vote on invoking cloture on the nomination of Marcia Johnson to be Administrator of General Services. Under a previous order, if cloture is invoked, all postcloture debate time will be yielded back and the Senate will proceed to a vote on her confirmation.

For the information of Senators, Senator KIRK will give his farewell speech at 3:45 p.m. or thereabouts today. Senator-elect BROWN will be sworn in at 5 p.m. today.

I say publicly for Senator KIRK that I am not sure I will be able to be here. The President has called something at the White House and I have to be there. I will do my utmost to be back by 5 for the swearing in of Senator BROWN.

### CONFIRMATION OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES

Mr. REID. Madam President, since I last asked unanimous consent to have confirmed three important nominations—one, the top intelligence official at the Department of Homeland Security, the other a top intelligence official at the State Department, and the third the highest ranking member of the entire Pentagon—I said three and there are actually four I asked unanimous consent on, and the fourth is an individual who would be the U.S. Rep-

resentative to the Conference on Disarmament. All these positions are dealing with these programs the United States should be involved in, but we had an objection from the Republicans.

There are people out there, evil people, trying to do damage to our country every day, every week, every month, every hour. It is hard for me to comprehend that people with impeccable records, such as Philip Goldberg, an appointee of President Bush to be Ambassador to Bolivia, who has an outstanding record of doing things for our country, is being objected to as being the person assigned by the White House and Secretary Clinton to be in charge of intelligence at the State Department.

Caryn Wagner, who is eminently qualified, I have never heard anything suggested that there is anything wrong with her background or qualifications. Yet there is objection to her being the person who deals with the safety of our homeland.

Laura Kennedy is the woman nominated to be the U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament. We are a nuclear power, and the United States doesn't have anybody at these conferences.

Finally, GEN Clifford Stanley to be Under Secretary of Defense. This man would be the third highest ranking person at the Pentagon. One of the things he is responsible for is making sure all our troops around the world have everything they need. He is responsible for making sure the 30,000 people who are headed for Afghanistan can go to Afghanistan when deemed ready to go by the Pentagon. That is his job. There is no one to do that. I can't imagine anybody objecting to that, but they have done so.

There isn't enough time in the world—the Senate world, at least—to move cloture on every one of these. We have spent all this week on two people.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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